GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:149
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2007
FOODGRAINS PRODUCTION
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan;Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the productivity of foodgrains has been steadily decreasing in the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years including the current year so far;

(c) whether the production of cash crops has also been considerably decreasing during the above period;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the net availability of foodgrains per capita has also declined during the last decade and the country is importing more food;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to ensure self-sufficiency in foodgrains production?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 149 DUE FOR REPLY ON 26TH NOVEMBER, 2007.

(a) & (b): No, Sir. The productivity of total foodgrains has continuously increased during the years 2004-05 to 2006-07 as can be seen from the data given in the following Table.

Crop Year	Productivity of Foodgrains (Kg/Hectare)
2004-05	1652
2005-06	1715
2006-07#	1750

4th advance estimates released on 19.07.2007

(c) & (d): The production of major cash crops viz., sugarcane and cotton shows continuous increase during the years 2004-05 to 2007-08. In the case of oilseeds, less area coverage has led to its lower production during 2006-07 as compared to 2005-06. However, the estimated production of Kharif oilseeds during 2007-08 (1st advance estimates) is 2.19 million tonnes more than the 13.94 million tonnes of Kharif oilseeds production during 2006-07 (4th advance estimates). Following table presents the production of oilseeds, sugarcane and cotton for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07:

Year	Production (Million Tonnes)		
	Oilseeds	Sugarcane	Cotton#
2004-05	24.35	237.09	16.43
2005-06	27.98	281.17	18.50
2006-07$	23.88	345.31	22.70

$ 4th advance estimates released on 19.07.2007

Million bales of 170 kg each.

(e) & (f): The per capita net availability of foodgrains, which was 475.2 grams per day in 1996 came down to 454.4 grams per day in 2000 and further to 444.5 grams (provisional) per day in 2006.

India has been a net exporter of foodgrains during 2003-04 to 2005-06. However, during 2006-07 in order to augment the buffer stock, about 6.08 million tonnes of wheat was imported.

(g): The Integrated Cereals Development Programmes (ICDP) in rice, wheat and coarse cereals based cropping systems have been under implementation since October 2000 to promote their production. The scheme, which was subsumed under macro management mode of agriculture, provided flexibility to the States based on local needs. An Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is also under implementation with effect from April 2004 in the country, inter-alia, to promote production of pulses. However, in order to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses further, recently a Centrally Sponsored Scheme `National Food Security Mission` (NFSM) has also been launched in the country from 2007-08. It aims at increasing the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan, i.e., by 2011-12 through area increase and productivity enhancement in targeted districts. Besides, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the States to increase public investment in agricultural and allied sectors is launched. The RKVY aims at achieving 4% annual growth in the agriculture sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, by ensuring a holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors.